

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIL-01 LAB-01 EB-03 DRC-01 RSC-01 EUR-10

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SS-14 NSC-07 NSCE-00 SP-01

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R 091144Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4503

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 06061

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB VS

SUBJ: RAY MAC DONALD RESIGNS AAFLI

REF: PARIS 11179

FOR SENSER (EA/RA) FROM LINDAHL

1. MAC DONALD TOLD ME MORNING OF MAY 9 THAT MORRIS PALADINO WAS SO "ROUGH" ON HIM WHEN HE WAS IN WASHINGTON ON CONSULTATION LAST FEBRUARY THAT HE SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION. PALADINO ACCEPTED THE RESIGNATION LAST MONTH, ACCORDING TO MAC DONALD; IT IS TO TAKE EFFECT SOMETIME IN AUGUST. THE TROUBLE IS ALLEGED TO STEM FROM A CONFLICT OVER WHO HAS AUTHORITY TO PREPARE COUNTRY PROGRAMS: PALADINO AND HIS WASHINGTON STAFF OR THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR (CD). MAC DONALD CLAIMS SIMILAR TREATMENT BY PALADINO GIVEN DELATORIO, CD, INDONESIA; TOM MILLER, CD KOREA; AND JACK GOODWYN, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, HEADQUARTERS MANILA. GOODWYN IS ALLEGED TO HAVE RESIGNED AND LEFT POST FOR HOME IN SEATTLE MAY 8. DELATORIO'S RESIGNATION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED. PLANS OF MILLER ARE UNKNOWN.

2. MAC DONALD AND WIFE DEPARTED MAY 9 FOR MANILA FOR MEDICAL AND DENTAL CHECK

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UPS. HE EXPECTS TO RETURN TO SAIGON IN TIME TO

RECEIVE RETURNING TRAN QUOC BUU AND THE AAFLI
THREE-MAN DEL THAT WILL ARRIVE LATER THIS MONTH.

3. MAC DONALD

HAD PLANNED TO MEET BUU IN BANGKOK TO EXPLAIN
BACKGROUND AND DECISION, BUT BECAUSE BUU TRANSITED BANGKOK
EARLIER THAN EXPECTED MAC DONALD WAS UNABLE TO ARRANGE A MEETING
AND LATER CALLED HIM IN PARIS.

4. COMMENT: IF ABOVE ACCOUNT IS CORRECT, IT APPEARS THAT
AAFLI PROGRAM IN EAST ASIA IS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE. BUU HAS
SEVERAL TIMES STATED HIS DISSATISFACTION
WITH PALADINO'S TACTICS,
IDENTIFYING HIM AS A "PETIT COLONIALIST". MAC DONALD COULD HAVE
WAITED FOR BUU'S RETURN TO SAIGON AND SINCE HE WENT OUT OF HIS
WAY TO REACH BUU BEFORE LATTER'S ARRIVAL IN THE US, LIKELIHOOD
EXISTS THAT HIS INTENT WAS TO FAN BUU'S DISLIKE OF PALADINO.
BUU WAS MOST DISTURBED OVER THE SHIFFLINGER AFFAIR AND HAS
SPECULATED THAT IF THE SAME THING HAPPENED TO MAC DONALD, WHOM
HE LIKES, BUU WILL TELL GEORGE MEANY THAT HE WANTS NOTHING
FURTHER TO DO WITH AAFLI.

THE ANTICIPATED RELATIONSHIP WITH
THE ASIAN-PACIFIC SOCIALISTS AND, PERHAPS, THE ICFTU
MIGHT BE SUFFICIENT TO PERSUADE BUU TO CARRY OUT THE THREAT.

5. NGUYEN DUC DAT, IN HIS APRIL 27 LETTER TO BUOI, AFTER
LEAVING NEW ZEALAND, USED AN UNFORTUNATE (FOR US) CHOICE OF
WORDS WHEN DISCUSSING THE NEED TO MAKE ALLIANCES WITH ASIAN
MOVEMENTS "IN LIEU OF AMERICA AND EUROPE." THE TRANSLATION
OF THE VIETNAMESE WORD WAS VERIFIED; IT DOES MEAN "IN LIEU OF".

6. AAFLI IS NEVERTHELESS VERY IMPORTANT TO BUU AND HIS SENIOR
STAFF. UNLESS PALADINO FURTHER FRUSTRATES BUU, WE THINK IT
UNLIKELY THAT HE WOULD SCUTTLE AAFLI AT THIS TIME.
MARTIN

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